



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Libertarians: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is unworkable and unfair

WASHINGTON DC -- The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy compromise for gays in the military is unworkable and unfair, said Mary Gingell, National Chair of the Libertarian Party, and she urged President Bill Clinton to "have the moral courage to stand up for his alleged principles."

"Don't ask, don't tell? Don't believe it," said Gingell. "This so-called compromise is a denial of the concept of equal rights, a shameless reversal of Clinton's campaign promises, and a sell-out to the blind ignorance and fear of the military establishment."

"Let's get government out of the discrimination business," urged Gingell. "America should be a land where sexual orientation isn't the government's business, and where the men and women in our armed forces don't have to fear the military 'Sex Police.' The generals opposed to lifting the ban say they're concerned about decreasing the effectiveness of the military; if so, the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy is a tragically flawed solution. It is guaranteed to create a climate of doubt, suspicion, and mistrust in the military."

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was recommended yesterday by Defense Secretary Les Aspin, and President Clinton has made it clear he will accept some version of it.

Stuart Reges, National Director of the Libertarian Party, labeled Clinton "just another politician who promises anything to get elected," but "caved in to pressure from the bigots."

"Democrats are long on promises, and short on principles when it comes to defending civil liberties. The Libertarian Party is the only party that calls for an end to governmental discrimination — in or out of the military," said Reges, an openly gay man.

"He promised the gays and lesbians who have proudly served their country in the armed forces that

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he would lift the ban and end the persecution they have had to endure. Instead, he has perpetuated the second-class status of gays and lesbians, and continues to give the government power to discriminate against them."

Reges noted that since 1975 the Libertarian Party's platform has demanded "an end to the Defense Department practice of discharging armed forces personnel for homosexual conduct."

"The Libertarian Party is the only political party that supports a complete lifting of the ban, and that has a proven track record of keeping its promises," said Reges. "The Libertarian Party is the first organization I have worked for where my being gay is an asset, rather than a liability."

The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in America. Its platform calls for free enterprise, free trade, individual liberty, respect for the Bill of Rights, and no meddling overseas. The party platform also calls for the "repeal of all laws regarding consensual sexual relations, and the cessation of state oppression and harassment of homosexual men and women, that they, at last, be accorded their full rights as individuals."

For more information about the Libertarian Party, call 1-800-682-1776.

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